

Kansas State Fire Marshal – Fire Prevention Division



References (s): 06-IFC/1008.1.8.3-1008.1.8.6; 00-101/7.2.1.5-7.2.1.6.1

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FIRE FACT 041 – DOOR LOCKS

There is no doubt of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's position regarding the locking of exits.

Egress doors shall be readily operable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort. No hasp, chain, drop bars, dead bolts, or padlocks can be placed on any exit door at any time.

The building and fire codes recognize the need to protect certain occupants from elopement and/or outside threats and have included specific locking arrangements that are approved contingent upon additional requirements. Those locking arrangements are listed here:

Delayed Egress Locks: Permissible in all occupancies other than assembly, education, and high hazard occupancies. These doors will release automatically after a specified amount of time once the door has been pushed.

- Building equipped with automatic sprinkler system or automatic smoke detection system
- Doors must unlock upon activation of sprinkler or smoke detection system
- Doors must unlock upon loss of power
- Doors shall have the ability to be unlocked by a signal from the fire command center
- Door will unlock after 15 seconds when a force of not more than 15 lbs is applied for 1 second to the release device on the door.
- Sign must be provided on the door and within 12 inches of the releasing device stating "PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SEC"
- Emergency lighting must be provided at the door.
- No more than 1 delayed locking device in any path of egress.

Magnetic Locks: Permissible in Healthcare only. These doors will not release without a code or releasing switch.

- Building equipped with automatic sprinkler system or automatic smoke detection system
- Doors must unlock upon activation of sprinkler or smoke detection system
- Doors must unlock upon loss of power
- Locks can only be relocked by manual means
- Emergency release switch must be provided at the closest nurses station that supervises the door.
- Key pad or key lock must be provided at the door
- Code must be provided to all cognitive residents, visitors and staff (except if the entire area is considered total lockdown)
- Emergency lighting must be provided at the door.

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Exits are required to be available and accessible. Wherever exiting is inadequate, the state fire marshal's office will take all necessary steps to protect the lives of the occupants including immediate evacuation. In these cases, buildings may remain unusable until the problem is corrected and appropriate planning for continuous safe exiting is shown.

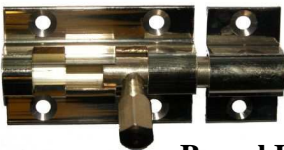
Trying to prohibit access to your facility from the general public? The Kansas State Fire Marshal offers this clarification.

There is nothing in the code that says the doors have to be accessible from the outside. If the exit door is from an area of the building where entry is not needed, you can remove any outside hardware or the handle on the door and replace it with a blank plate or cover. Doors can also be equipped to sound an alarm whenever they are opened.

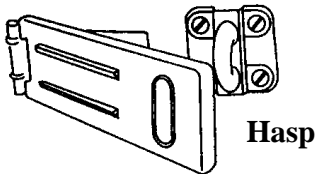
Prohibited Locks & Latches



Locking Door Chain



Barrel Bolt



Hasp



Dead Bolt / Thumb Turn

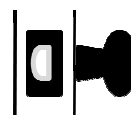


Drop-In Bar

Acceptable Locks & Latches Corridor Side / Classroom Side



Passage Latch: Both knobs always unlocked



Exit Lock: Blank plate outside, inside knob always unlocked.



Classroom Holdback Lock: Outside knob locked or unlocked by key. Inside knob always unlocked. Latch may be locked in retracted position by key except in rated corridors that require doors to latch.



Classroom Lock: Outside knob locked or unlocked by key. Inside knob always unlocked.